



PSA

Date: August 15, 2020
To: All Media
From: Stephanie Krell, PIO for Unified Command
Subject: **Potential for Power Outages due to Mosier Creek Fire**

Wasco, Sherman, and Gilliam COVID-19 Unified Command urges our community to be prepared for all hazards and potential emergency situations. In addition to the global COVID-19 pandemic, this week our area experienced wildfires, and short-duration power outages. This announcement is aimed at reminding everyone to be prepared.

We are particularly concerned regarding a potential disruption to electrical service in our community. While the risk is low at this time, we want everyone to be prepared, especially those vulnerable populations that are dependent on electricity for their health, life, and safety.

The Mosier Creek Fire is burning close to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) transmission lines. Firefighting efforts could require power to be shut off to the lines to protect firefighter's safety. If this occurs, residents in Western Wasco County and parts of Hood River County could be impacted. While the outlook today seems to indicate a low likelihood of another power outage, a small risk remains and the public needs to be prepared in case the situation changes:

- A high heat event is pending for this weekend;
 - Wildfire season is in full swing, expect poor air-quality and the potential for new fires;
- COVID cases are still occurring in our communities;
- There is a small risk for more power outages:
 - An outage associated with the Mosier Creek Fire may come with little notice.

If anyone has questions, or needs special assistance regarding a power outage, please contact your electricity utility provider directly.

Stay informed. Sign up for 'Citizen Alert' in your County via Everbridge®:

- Wasco: <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612392/login>
- Sherman: <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736724035/login>
- Gilliam: <https://member.everbridge.net/892807736724035/login>

Information regarding high heat preparedness and poor air quality may be found on the CDC website:

- Heat: <https://www.cdc.gov/nceh/features/extremeheat/index.html>
- Smoke: <https://www.cdc.gov/air/wildfire-smoke/default.htm>

Information regarding the Mosier Creek Fire may be found at InciWeb - Incident Information System: <https://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/article/6955/53176/>

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